

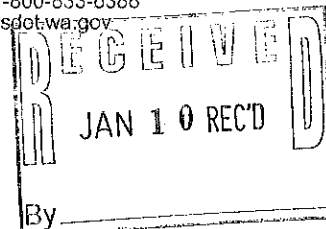


**Washington State
Department of Transportation**
Paula J. Hammond, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation

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January 4, 2012



Mr. Brian Ziegler, P.E.
Director, Pierce County Public Works and Utilities
2702 South 42nd Street, Ste. 201
Tacoma, WA 98409-7322

RE: State Route 162, Puyallup River Bridge
McMillin Bridge

Dear Mr. ~~Ziegler~~: *BRIAN*

Thank you for your letter of October 20, 2010. Your letter presented Pierce County's position related to potentially taking ownership of the State Route 162 Puyallup River Bridge (McMillin Bridge) in response to a Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) inquiry. WSDOT continues to seek necessary authorizations and approvals to deliver this important transportation improvement project.

During the course of ongoing consultation pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, WSDOT has been asked by the Corps of Engineers to engage Pierce County with an additional proposal to consider preservation in place of the McMillin Bridge and disclose maintenance and operations costs. In the course of consultation, the Corps and other parties have voiced concern whether the County's October 2010 letter truly represents a comprehensive and ultimate position for Pierce County.

The Corps and consulting parties have asked that WSDOT request Pierce County consider an alternative that would incorporate the McMillin Bridge into the Foothills Trail. Specifically, consulting parties have requested Pierce County consider a proposal where WSDOT would realign the Foothills Trail to the McMillin Bridge and dismantle, remove and relocate the existing Foothills Trail rail bridge. WSDOT would relinquish ownership of the McMillin Bridge to Pierce County.

Based on WSDOT operation and maintenance costs, Pierce County should expect to incur costs ranging from \$1,500 to \$40,000 annually for this use of the McMillin Bridge. These O&M costs would cover nominal and routine maintenance and operation and would not address the risk of structural failure caused by fire, seismic or scour events.

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We look forward to further discussions and clarification as necessary for Pierce County to evaluate this alternative. Thank you for your consideration of this additional proposal along with providing a comprehensive and ultimate decision on the behalf of Pierce County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin J. Dayton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin J. Dayton, P.E.
Region Administrator

JS:mb

Attachment: Corps 9/23/2011 letter

cc: S. Manning, Seattle District, Corps of Engineers w/o attach
P. Hammond, WSDOT HQ
J. Lenzi, WSDOT HQ
J. Wynands, WSDOT OR Proj. Dev.
S. Fuchs, WSDOT OR Oly Design
J. Sawyer, WSDOT OR EHS